

# **TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF RAISED BILL NO. 5368**

## **AN ACT CONCERNING HOMEMAKER SERVICES AND HOMEMAKER COMPANION AGENCIES**

**March 8, 2016**

Dear Members of the Committee:

My name is Julianne Roth, and I am the Board Chair for the Connecticut Homemaker and Companion Association. I am also the owner of Companions for Living in West Hartford. I am here today to testify in favor of HB 5368, An Act Concerning Homemaker Services and Homemaker Companion Agencies.

The number of consumers purchasing private home care services for the home continues to grow in Connecticut. As the population continues to age, the services and support that is provided is essential. Rather than institutional care, consumers are turning to care at home to support their desire for comfort, independence, and a higher quality of life. Most consumers pay for these services out of pocket.

Faced with a growing and overwhelming amount of choices in the marketplace, consumers often turn to the cheapest price for care, without understanding the implications of their choice. Many consumers are hiring workers from registries and companies that do not employ or supervise their workers, but merely "place" them in home care settings. This has resulted in unfortunate situations for seniors, families, and workers.

Most importantly, there are many unexpected and hidden issues that consumers and workers face when dealing with companies that place workers who they do not employ. Because of this, both the worker and consumer can suffer significant financial liability in the areas of: payroll taxes, unemployment benefits, worker related injuries, abuse and exploitation, and training and supervision of the worker's skills.

Finally, this bill is consistent with state policy in that it would help address worker misclassification in the home care industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.